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Contact: Boa Lee

Tel: 076 515 000

Sierra Leonean to Participate in Food Security Seminar in U.S.

(FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE) – A Sierra Leonean currently studying in the United States under the Fulbright Foreign Student Exchange program will be among approximately 60 others who will participate in the 2012 U.S. Department of State’s Fulbright Global Food Security Enrichment Seminar from October 17-20 at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. Fulbright participants who are master’s degree and Ph.D. candidates from 40 developing countries including India, Afghanistan, Brazil, Zimbabwe, Indonesia, and Egypt, will participate. The seminar will give the students, who are all studying in the U.S. in academic fields related to food security and agriculture, the opportunity to explore food security issues in an interdisciplinary and innovative way beyond their regular coursework.

The Fulbrighter from Sierra Leone is currently studying agricultural engineering at South Dakota State University.

During the seminar, Fulbright students will interact with leaders in the field of sustainable food development and have the opportunity to work in small groups to brainstorm solutions to food shortages and possibilities for increased food production. They will also tour the Center for Environmental Farming Systems in Goldsboro, NC, and NC State’s Biomanufacturing Training and Education Center. The 2012 seminar theme, “Preparing for Tomorrow’s Global Food Needs Today,” addresses the reality of global population growth. Developing countries in particular, including the home countries of many of the participating Fulbright students, will need continued innovation to produce enough food for their growing populations.

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs sponsors the Fulbright Enrichment Seminar series as part of its flagship Fulbright Program. These enrichment seminars, an integral part of the Fulbright experience, support the Fulbright Program’s overall mission – to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries through academic exchange.